

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani

DATE: October 1, 1999

RE: Forensic Utilization of the Vermont State Hospital

In response to one of our recent PIPs regarding length of stay in the Vermont State Hospital, Richard Lanza, CRT Director at Lamoille County Mental Health, asked for more detail on forensic utilization of the Hospital including analysis of change over time. This week's PIP was prepared in response to that request.

The attached tables and graphs provide a profile of forensic utilization of the Vermont State Hospital over the past ten years. For purposes of this analysis, episodes of hospitalization are categorized by legal status on admission. Forensic admissions include admissions for court ordered observation and commitments following competency and hospitalization hearings. Information is provided on the number of forensic and non-forensic admission and on the number of patient days for forensic and non-forensic patients.

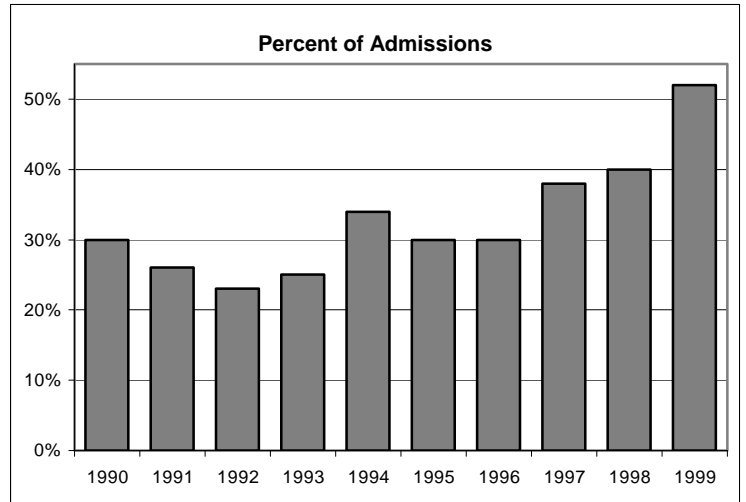
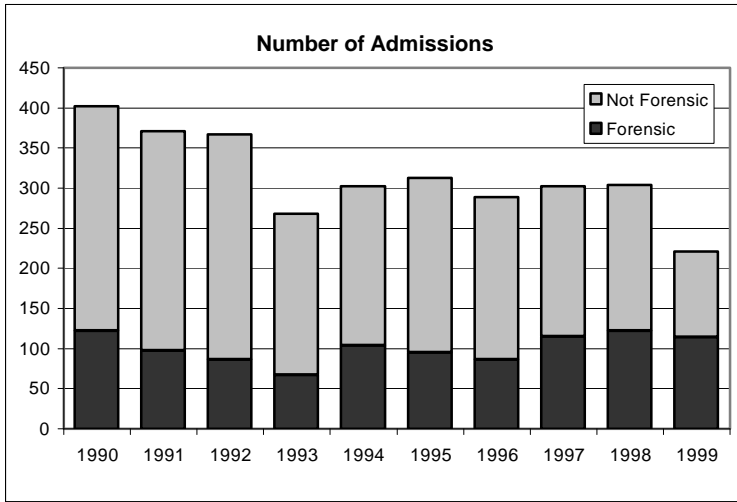
As you will see, the number of forensic admissions during the last three years was at about 1990 levels. The number of forensic admissions to the Vermont State Hospital decreased from 122 in 1990 to a low of 67 in 1993, but since that time has tended to increase. Because the total number of admissions decreased by more than 45% during this period, the proportion of all admissions that were categorized as forensic increased from a low of 23% in 1992 to a high of 51% in 1999.

During this same time period, the average daily census of the Hospital decreased by more than 50% (from 115 in 1990 to 51 in 1999). There was, however, much less change in the average daily census of people who had been admitted under a forensic legal status. Similar numbers of forensic patients came to make up an increasing proportion of the total population of the Hospital.

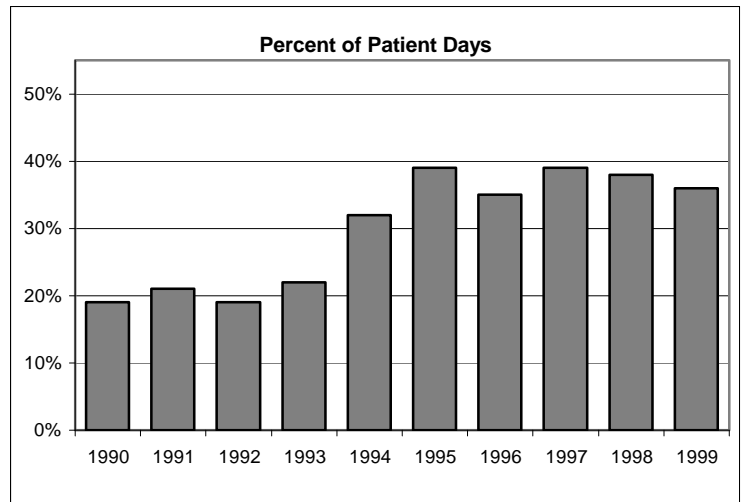
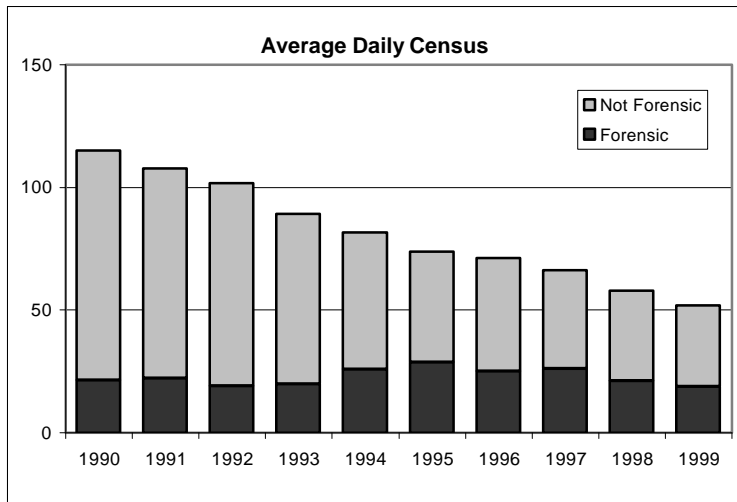
We look forward to your questions, comments, and requests for more information. You can contact me by calling 802-241-2638 or e-mailing [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

# Vermont State Hospital

## Admissions by Year



## Census by Year



### Vermont State Hospital Admissions by Year

YR	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Admissions	402	371	367	268	302	313	289	302	304	224
Forensic	122	97	86	67	104	95	86	115	122	115
Not Forensic	280	274	281	201	198	218	203	187	182	109
% of Difference	30%	26%	23%	25%	34%	30%	30%	38%	40%	51%

### Vermont State Hospital Census by Year

YR	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ave. Daily Census	115	107.8	101.7	89.3	81.6	73.7	71.3	66.2	57.9	5
Forensic	21.4	22.3	19.1	19.9	25.8	28.7	25	26	21.18	18.9
Not Forensic	93.6	85.5	82.6	69.4	55.8	45	46.3	40.2	36.72	6
% of Patient Days	19%	21%	19%	22%	32%	39%	35%	39%	38%	37%

# Vermont State Hospital